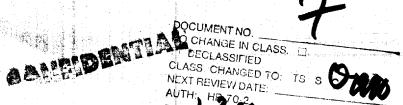
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NSC BRIEFING

4 February 1954

PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE SUPPORT FOR THE WAR

- Viet Minh controls villagers.
 - Value in terms men, supply, intelligence.
 - B. Increase of Viet Minhcontrolled villages in Delta.
- Reasons for Viet Minh success. II.
 - Headstart during Japanese occupation.
 - Viet Minh looks more indigenous than French-sponsored Bao Dai government.
 - Better psycho war than French. C.
 - Discipline toward civilians better than that of French and Viet troops.



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25X1

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- A. "Fence-sitters" withhold support.
 - Hedging against Viet
 Minh victory.
 - 2. No confidence in Bao Dai -too much French influence.
- B. Answer is political revolution and all-out propaganda.
- IV. Viet army depends on political progress.
 - A. Navarre needs big Viet army.
 - B. But Viet troops shy of battle.
 - 1. No political incentive.
 - 2. Poor morale training program.
 - 3. Too many "missing."
 - C, Problem of officer shortage.
 - 1. French don't push training.
 - 2. Viets resent French control
 - 3. U.S. advice unwelcome

to French.
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